

KING HUSSEIN

PRAISES SOVIET HELP TO ARABS

Amman. King Hussein of Jordan told a special joint session of the Senate and National Consultative Council that the Soviet Union is in favour of a fair and honest peace in the Middle East and opposes the forcible seizure of foreign lands. The USSR helps the Arabs, he stressed, bolstering their military strength by providing them with the latest weapons and equipment.

Flatly condemning the carnage against Palestinians in Beirut, King Hussein pointed out that it was masterminded by the same extremist figure who had planned the murder of Palestinians of Dela Yassin and who now heads the Israeli government. The Israeli actions in Lebanon, he emphasized, are also eroding US credibility.

AMERICANS REJECT COMPROMISE

Brussels. The EEC foreign ministers have deplored the American unwillingness to come to a compromise in the "steel war" between the United States and the Common Market. E. Davignon of Belgium, Vice-President of the Committee of the European Communities, has said that the Americans have postponed until October 15 their decision on a possible change to their uncompromising position to exchange for concessions proposed by the Common Market. Our expectations have been badly let

down in Europe in view of this postponement, he said. The ministers have also firmly pointed out to Washington that violation of the rules for international trade by the American administration is inadmissible and have again demanded that the discriminatory measures America has imposed on deliveries of equipment for the construction of the gas pipeline between Siberia and Western Europe—and which constitute an attempt to spread the American jurisdiction beyond the United States—be repealed.

GROWING DOMESTIC

CRITICISM OF JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

Tokyo. All opposition parties and leading trade union leaders to Japan have announced their intention to launch a national movement of protest against the government which has decided to freeze the salaries of government employees. The press estimates that with spiralling prices this will result in a shrinking in real incomes to the tune of one trillion three hundred thousand

million yen, affecting 26 million Japanese. The opposition and the trade unions are seeking a repeal of this draconian measure initiated by the Z. Suzuki cabinet who are responsible for the depression and the country's growing financial crisis. In order to boost the economy and to expand domestic demand, they propose tax cuts as well as measures to combat unemployment.



American aid.
Drawing by
V. Mochalov

SOLIDARITY WITH THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE

Phnom Penh. In a statement issued here the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization has demanded the expulsion of the Pol Pot representatives from the United Nations.

By overthrowing the murderous clique run by Pol Pot, Sang Sary, and Khieu Sanphan, it is said in the statement, the people of Kampuchea, led by the government they have elected, are building an independent, democratic and peaceful state. The present Kampuchean government, therefore, is the sole legitimate representative of the Kam-

puchean people, and it has every right to represent their interests at all international forums and international organizations. The organization firmly supports the peace initiatives set forth in the documents adopted at their conference by the foreign ministers of Kampuchea, Vietnam and Laos. It believes that their implementation will in many ways help relax tensions along the Thai-Kampuchean border and that South-East Asia will, as a result, be turned into a zone of peace, stability and all-round cooperation.

THREAT OF AMERICAN INTERVENTION

Sau Jose. Naval bases have been threatened of armed American intervention in Central America, been said here, by the Guerrilla Army of the Poor People, Guatemala's largest military-political organization.

The entire foreign policy of the present American administration is geared towards escalation of aggression. More specifically, another military base is under construction at Key West, to southern Florida, to witness the rapid deployment force. The American Senate recently approved a resolution empowering the US administration to use force in any part of Central America. The situation in the region is being made still more volatile by Washington's militarization of Honduras, a country which is already used for staging provocations against the Nicaraguan revolution.

The Guerrilla Army of the Poor People urged all countries to take vigorous moves to rebuff the interventionist designs of the Reagan administration in Central America.

CHILEAN ECONOMY IN CRISIS

Brazilia. The Pinochet dictatorship has plunged the Chilean economy into complete chaos, stresses an article on the Chilean economy in the Brazilian "Folha do São Paulo" newspaper. Chile's foreign debt now stands at 17,000 million dollars and is the largest in the world in per capita terms. This year it will equal 60 per cent of the GNP.

The growing foreign debt is accompanied by continued economic depression, which has pushed the country to the brink of disaster. Industrial production in the first half of this year dropped by 18 per cent on a similar period last year, while agricultural output fell by seven per cent. The economic decline has produced precipitous unemployment, with 1,500,000 or 25 per cent of the country's workforce now jobless, the paper notes.

USA STOCKPILING BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS IN SPAIN

Madrid. There is now evidence to prove that American-made bacteriological weapons are stockpiled at the American air base at Torrejon de Ardoz outside Madrid, claims "Interviú," a local magazine. Containers with lethal weapons were shipped to Spain from Pakistan, where developed and tested them on human beings, on CIA orders.

ANGOLA REJECTS AMERICAN DICTAT

Luanda. The People's Republic of Angola rejects the conditions set by the United States for normalization of relations between the two countries, said P. Jorge, the Angolan Foreign Minister, in an interview to the Angolan ANGOP news agency.

The Minister said that the main thing the United States wants is the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The Angolan Minister pointed out that he was to ignore the fact that the Angolan contingent is stationed in Angola to protect the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity from racist South African aggression.



Fifteen hundred civilians have been killed as wounded in the bloodbath staged by the Israeli military in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Chatila. Eyewitnesses' accounts say Palestinian refugees were driven out of their homes and lined up to be shot in cold blood. Even the sick and wounded were shot as they lay in their hospital beds. Hundreds of people were shot to death on the pitch of the city stadium which had been converted into a concentration camp. The bodies of the Chatila and Sabra camps were strewn with blood-soaked bodies. In the photo: police dispersing the demonstration.

A demonstration in protest against the mass killings of civilians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank took place outside the home of the Israeli Prime Minister Begin in Jerusalem.

In the photo: police dispersing the demonstration.

FACTS and EVENTS

① The death of Princess Grace has been announced in Monaco following a road accident in which she was fatally injured. Many will perhaps remember her better as Grace Kelly, the famous Hollywood film star of the 50s—a career which only ended when she married Prince Rainier III of Monaco.

② According to the "Melina" newspaper 20 thousand people have been executed over the past 14 months in Iran. At present there are 50 thousand political prisoners in Iranian jails.

③ Reports from La Paz say that the military government and members of the supreme military command in Bolivia have decided to hand over power to a civilian administration. This decision was taken under pressure from an overwhelming majority of the country's population.

④ The European Parliament has condemned the American embargo on equipment for the gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe. Its deputies have demanded that the American administration lift these sanctions which violate commercial treaties in existence. These sanctions will also lead to further unemployment in Western Europe and deteriorating in international trade and economic relations.



Education, facts and figures

Geneva. From 1975 till 2000, it is thought that the number of schoolchildren in the world will increase by 418 million, a UNESCO report states. Even if these optimistic forecasts turn out to be true, far from all children, aged between 6-11 years, will have the opportunity of going to school at the turn of the century—only 8 per cent of the total number of school-age children in Latin America, for instance; only 27 per cent of those in South Asia and 28 per cent of those in Africa.

Science and technology

QUIET TYPING-POOLS?

According to the journal "Business Week", inventors from the Philips have designed a noiseless typewriter. The machine is based on a method whereby micro-retractors placed along a length of heat-sensitive paper are instantly heated.

OF INTEREST

Bear disturbs peace

An incredible panic arose among pedestrians when a bear appeared unexpectedly in the central streets of Paris. After escaping from a special pit shop, the bear walked along the pavement without bothering anyone and then climbed a tree. Some passersby had a theory that he enjoyed the view of Notre Dame. The disturber of the peace was eventually apprehended by police.

Gutuso's first stamp



The Italian government has issued a decree to issue a special stamp dedicated to the Italian national team's victory in the World Cup. The sketch for the stamp has been made by Renato Guttuso, Lenin Peace Prize Winner. This is his first work of this type. 4.5 million copies of the stamp will soon be printed.

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

ISRAEL FACES INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION

Thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians, predominantly civilians, have been killed or wounded as a result of Israel's continuing bloody actions, V. Kudryavtsev, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, writes in PRAVDA. Kudryavtsev is taking part in the work of the international commission investigating Israel's crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. Thousands of people are missing and almost a million left homeless or have been forced to flee from their native lands.

Influential American circles misinterpreted all these actions. Kudryavtsev continues. It has been indisputably established that the war in Lebanon was prepared and that the Israeli actions constitute international crimes. American leaders, who in their speeches like to resort to moral maxims, have on this occasion refrained from moral or legal condemnation of the bloody events on Lebanese soil. For some reason one does not hear calls for the protection of human rights in that region. For some reason the accolade of "freedom" and "democracy" western-style, keep silent. The American administration wants to make sure that the world public forgets the horrors taking place in Lebanon as soon as possible.

But this must not happen. International criminals must pay the penalty for their crimes. Kudryavtsev emphasizes.

UNSEEMLY ACTIONS

According to IZVESTIA, the ASEAN nations — Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines — have been pressed by a number of Western countries over the past few months to increase their cooperation in the military field. Not so long ago a similar idea was expressed by Leo Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of Singapore who spoke in favour of joint military manoeuvres by the ASEAN countries.

It is not hard to see who is interested in such manoeuvres. Recently, some ASEAN leaders have voiced concern about "external danger" threatening the Association, and they have also Vietnam and Kampuchea of creating tensions in the region. This that allegedly by the Chief Military Command in Thailand that Vietnam has backed up its forces in Kampuchea and that it has been intensifying its military operations along the Thai-Kampuchean border is completely groundless. Such publications are clearly designed to distort the peaceful foreign policies pursued by Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea at a time when the UN General Assembly is holding its regular session and to torpedo the constructive dialogue between the Indochinese and the ASEAN nations.

ALLIES UNDER PRESSURE

Commenting on the autumn series of NATO war games, the SELSKAYA ZHIZN newspaper stresses that, among other things, they are used by the NATO big guns for putting greater pressure on member-states like Spain, Belgium, Denmark, Holland and Greece. In order to try to increase the latter countries' military subservience to the American military, it is also hoped to implement the NATO council decision to deploy new American nuclear, medium-range missiles in Western Europe. The highly provocative nature of this demonstration of military might, says the paper, is shown by the fact that many of the above games are held in close proximity to the borders of the socialist countries.

The West European public is also worried that NATO units are being trained in "limited" nuclear warfare. This anxiety has spilled over into anti-war demonstrations held close to the area of the games and in NATO military bases under the slogans of "No to NATO" and "We do not want to be Washington's nuclear hostages", the paper emphasizes.

TRANS-ATLANTIC DUEL GROWS WORSE

THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS journal writes that the present state of trade and economic relations between the EEC and the United States enables one to make the firm prediction that despite all Washington's efforts to restore unity within the Western world under its aegis, the intense inter-imperialist fight for markets, for sources of raw materials and energy, and for spheres of investment, will continue unabated. A graphic example of this can be seen to be the abrupt aggravation in the Trans-Atlantic duel which followed in the wake of the American attempt to hinder the development of mutually beneficial business cooperation between Western countries—EEC members, for instance—and the socialist states.

In this way the Americans hoped to "bring to heel" their "intransigent" West European allies. The American discriminatory actions are condemned by the broadest sections of the West European public. It is no accident that among the slogans shouted by anti-war demonstrators in Western Europe the most popular is "Better gas from the East than missiles from the West". This slogan graphically reflects the West European attitude towards policies dictated by the United States.

First woman pilot in Zimbabwe

Linda Pearson, in Zimbabwe's first lady pilot. Shortly before the plane was to take off on a regular flight between Harare and Gaborone, the passengers noticed a girl wearing a pilot's uniform boarding the plane. Taking her for an air hostess, they paid no special attention to her. It was only when Linda took the pilot's seat, that some of them exchanged glances. "I quickly turned on the engine and took off before they realized what had happened and began to protest," she told reporters after the plane landed. Linda was taught to fly by her father, who is a pilot.

Comatose patient dies after 27 years

40-year-old Paul Bales, who remained in a coma for 27 years in a small French town, has died at the end of the long and comatose spell in the history of medicine.

Beaten by an adder?

John Berry, an inhabitant of Blyth, in North Wales (Great Britain), decided he would spend a total of 70 days locked up in a cage, confronting 28 poisonous snakes. Berry only managed to stay out 55 days, however, before being bitten by a South African adder and ending up in hospital.

VIEWPOINT

Yuri KURTSYN



UN AND 'THIRD WORLD': HOPES AND REALITY

Of the more than 150 delegates at the 37th UN General Assembly Session, two-thirds are from newly independent states.

The UN was instrumental in their liberation from colonialism, and today they again place their high hopes for peace and independent development in this body. These nations are particularly hard hit by the current world instability, suffering more than others from the arms race due to their economic weakness. Their natural wealth works against them in the face of growing encroachments on their sovereignty by imperialist and neo-colonialist forces and the crises come out of this situation, frequently spill over into military conflicts in this region.

They face an ever worsening situation on international markets and in view of current international developments their prospects for the future generally appear rather bleak.

Quite naturally these countries see their joint action both within the framework of the non-aligned movement and regional organizations as well as within the world community of nations, as

the only way of improving matters.

According to what has become something of a tradition now, right at the start of the session the delegates began posing joint strategy measures for the issues on the agenda which were of particular interest to them. As before they are chiefly concerned with the paramount issue of how to achieve and maintain peace on our planet, how the security, freedom and progress of nations and equitable cooperation among them can be ensured.

Prior to the start of the session the press and political quarters of developing nations voiced not only their hopes and wishes for UN activities, but also a certain measure of disappointment in the effectiveness of its resolutions, whose practical value is often invalidated in view of opposition from international forces having material, military and other leverage to prevent their implementation.

The fact that, while disarmament negotiations are dragging on, the arms trade and war preparation are growing at breakneck speed is a clear illustration of this point. At the UN the

USA has overshadowed most of the initiatives put forward by the socialist and developing nations aiming to halt this lunacy and ignores appropriate resolutions it has signed, too. It has launched a new round in the arms race, drawing the rest of the world into it, too. This year alone US monopolies will sell weapons abroad to the tune of 20,000 million dollars, with those destined for the "third world" accounting for a 14,000 million share of this figure.

The political and military industrial quarters in leading capitalist nations are also responsible for the inability of the UN, representing as it does the interests of 4,500 million people on earth, to quench the flames of war. In the Middle East and south of Africa fit by a bunch of racist and colonialist and to finally head off the emergence of new volatile situations. Precisely these quarters have blunted such real tools of pressure, on the aggression as international sanctions envisaged by the UN Charter and its resolutions.

"Big business" superprofits at the expense of the "third world" have so far prevailed

over the concern for justice and mankind's far-reaching interests. This is also clear from the winking of UN attempts to substitute international economic cooperation on a basis equally beneficial to all nations for the uncontrolled forces and arbitrariness of the "free" market. Moreover, plans are in the pipeline for further curtailing the rights of developing countries as imperialist monopolies are getting ready to plunder the World Ocean's mineral wealth. For its part, the US administration dealt a blow to an international convention which had been worked on for eight years by over 150-plus nations and designed to protect this, mankind's common property, by refusing to sign it at the last minute.

In short, young independent nations have every reason to press for greater UN authority and a more positive role in world affairs. A concern surely shared by all peace-loving peoples. It is absolutely imperative to turn the UN into an active tool for achieving practical results in the peoples' drive for peace and security. This sentiment was emphasized in talks Leonid Brezhnev held recently in Moscow with UN Secretary-General J. Pérez de Cuellar and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Most of the 150-plus issues on the agenda of the current General Assembly session have long held the attention of the world community. Significantly, the socialist and developing nations have, as a rule, taken the same or similar stand on them because of their converging interests. This holds much promise for the session's success.

UNESCO plan for five years

Paris. The plan for the United Nations Organization on Education, Science and Culture covering the period 1984-1989 has been submitted to the 115th session of the Executive Council by the Director-General Amadou Mahtar Mbow.

A significant section is devoted to actions to strengthen peace and create a deeper understanding among peoples. The problem of war and peace

has never been so primary a human preoccupation as it is now, stressed Amadou Mahtar Mbow. He said that UNESCO considers it as one of its main, if not its most imperative, tasks to do everything it can for the triumph of peace and understanding among peoples, for the elimination of racial hatred and the spread of respect for human rights.

Round the Soviet Union

● A MONUMENT TO K. TSIOLKOVSKY HAS BEEN UNVEILED BY THE PEOPLE OF RYAZAN TO MARK THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZEN WHO PROCLAIMED THE BEGINNING OF SPACE ERA. Tsiolkovsky is depicted in breezes by O. Komov, People's Artist of the Russian Federation.

● THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SCIENTISTS FROM 12 COUNTRIES OF EUROPE, ASIA AND AMERICA HAS ENDED IN LENINGRAD. It signed a programme of further investigations for long-term weather forecasting. Special attention was paid to the methods of compiling numerical models in forecasting the climate and weather for a period of a few years.

● "A CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT NOISE AND VIBRATION IN CITIES" WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN ALL-UNION SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE WHICH HAS JUST ENDED IN DNEPROPETROVSK. Those taking part—specialists in different disciplines—considered this topical environmental problem as a system relevant to health protection. They put forward wide-ranging recommendations for the introduction of tighter sanitary control over noise and vibrations.

● THE FIRST DELIVERIES OF EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE TAMBEI OIL PROSPECTING EXPEDITION, working in one of the northernmost sites in the Soviet Union. Automobiles, snow and marsh vehicles, drilling pipes, and collapsible houses are among the items to have been unloaded. The area of the expedition's operations lies between the central part of the Vamal Peninsula and the shores of the Arctic Ocean. This year, it is to drill fifteen thousand metres of prospecting wells.

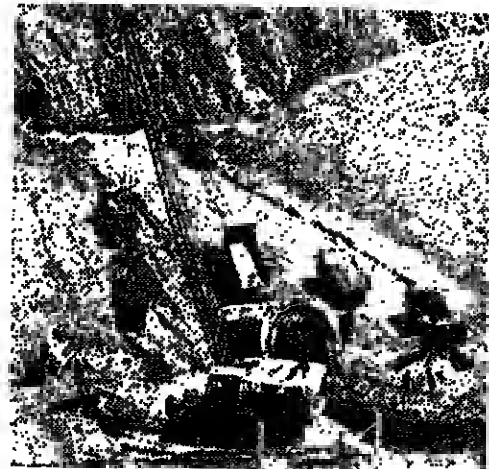
NEW RIVER FOR ALMA-ATA

It is likely that the inhabitants of Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan, will soon change the pattern of their weekends. They will no longer have to travel dozens of kilometres to bathe—for a river will be appearing in the near future within the city limits.

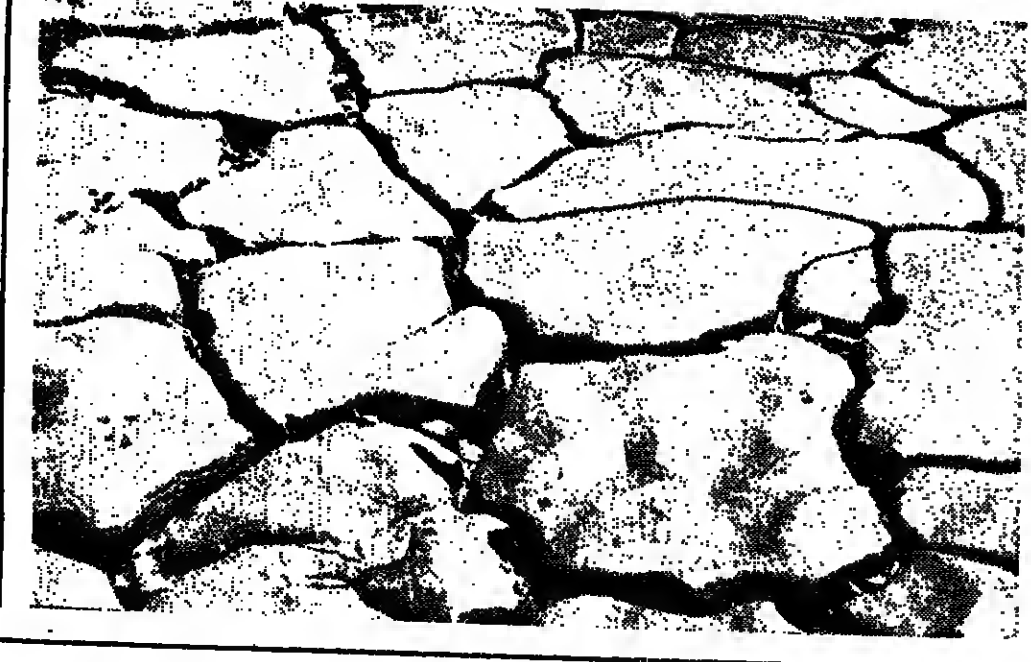
The water of the mountain Chilik River will travel more than 170 kilometres before reaching the city via a canal. Next year the Chilik will be flood-free because upon leaving its mountain canyon it will flow into the concrete "catch" of a reservoir. This artificial lake has an area of 14 square kilometres. From here the water will be channelled via the canal to the fields and it will then run through Alma-Ata.

In the city five recreation areas will be built along the canal banks, complete with a chain of ponds, swimming beaches, a rowing canal and sporting facilities. The canal will provide plenty of water for the vegetation in the eastern part of the city.

In the photos: building the dam of the Bortogal reservoir. The canal will also pass through desert land.



Photos by Iosif Budnevich and Vladimir Sviridovich



Microhydroelectric station land irrigation

The use of microelectric power stations invented by Kirghiz specialists opens up ample opportunities for the intensification of agriculture.

This September has painted pictures in the Tien Shan in different colours of late autumn.

The draughty hot summer has dried up the grass, and the shrubs have turned yellow. However, on the green mountainous plateau of Chon Kurchak, with lands belonging to Sirenikov state farm, a regular grass-mowing session is in full swing.

Water is pumped here—a height of one hundred metres—from a glacier-fed river by system of electric pumps.

The entire irrigation complex is supplied with electricity by a microelectric power station which has only four units—a

water collector, a pressure pipeline, a hydroelectric block, and a control system. The 30-kilowatt station is activated by a small river which carries 400 litres of water per second and which has rather a steep-sloping bed.

DAMS TO STOP FLOOD WATERS

Reliable protection from springtime floods and avalanches frequently rushing down the slopes of the Western Pamirs have been built to protect the mountainous villages in the Surkhan-Darya Region. The floods and landslides will be stopped by a system of hydro-technical structures which have been built by land reclamation in Uzbekistan. They have commissioned the last link in the system—a stonework on the Lyalyakon River.

All in all, they have dammed 24 steep gorges and riverbeds which provide most likely channels for avalanches and landslides. The builders have also taken into account that the area is earthquake-prone. The dams have been built to withstand earth tremors of up to nine points on the Richter scale.

The landslide-protection system opens up another opportunity. Its "traps" collect nearly forty million cubic metres of water which can help reclaim fallow lands in the mountains to cultivate orchards and vineyards.

KALMYKIA'S PROMISING INDUSTRY

A new state farm named Dzhinniger has appeared on the agricultural map of Kalmykia. This is the fifth farm here producing rice and fodder for cattle.

First reclamation groups came to the Samuil Depression between the Volga and the Don over ten years ago. They laid out 15 thousand hectares of irrigated lands to farmers. Volga-belt rice is now being harvested on half the area. In the local arid climate they harvest from four to five tonnes per hectare.

Rice-growing is one of the autonomous republic's most promising industries. An all-Union YCL shock project has been started here in the Volga steppe, which envisages the building of rice-growing engineering systems. It is included in the country's most important projects of the agrarian-industrial complex.

Places to visit



ZAGORSK

Zagorsk is one of the best known tourist haunts in the Moscow area. The town was founded with the building of the Trinity Monastery in the mid-14th century. Even the Terrible later turned it into a formidable fortress, and the villages and settlements which grew up around the monastery gradually formed into a single urban entity which acquired town status in 1782.

Zagorsk is an open-air museum. Pillared buildings decorated with intricate stone carving, small churches, of a simple cubic shape capped with a small bell-tower, as well as complex compositions of cupolas, and roof-shaped towers go to make up a single architectural ensemble.

Among these monuments of ancient Russian architecture two cathedrals are of particular note: the Trinity (1422) and the Uspensky (Assumption) Cathedral (1655). The 68-metre five-story bell tower, built by the architect Rastrelli, has acquired world acclaim.

In the art and history museum which is housed in the monastery there is a valuable collection of Byzantine and Russian manuscripts, of church vessels made of precious metals by old Russian masters as well as a collection of icons.

Science and technology

PAPER MILL HARNESSES

ULTRASOUND

Scientists from the Kaunas Polytechnic have designed ultrasonic instruments which are now part of the quality control system at the paper mill in Kaunas. The instruments and other ultrasonic devices designed in Lithuania help intensify technological processes, save on electricity and materials, and increase the reliability of the finished products.

The latest novelties include a whole range of "fault-finders" for monitoring the quality of petrochemicals and the strength of artificial tissues and of steel structures. These instruments have released thousands of people for jobs elsewhere. Instruments of a similar sort include profilographs for work in the fields. The latter have made the process of monitoring the quality of types of land cultivation, scores of times as fast.

At present Lithuanian engineers are busy designing sonic thermometers based on the recently discovered effect of differences in the absorption rate

of ultrasound in materials with different temperatures. Tests have shown that such ultrasonic devices can measure temperatures of up to 5,000 degrees in aggressive environments under intensive temperature regimes and high pressures. The instruments measure better and with greater precision than the more conventional instruments that have been in use to date.

ELECTRONIC THERMOMETER

Having served man for hundreds of years, the glass thermometer will soon be replaced by an electronic digital instrument which has been designed by Leningrad engineers. The biophysical instruments factory in the Ukrainian city of Lvov is soon to start manufacturing the new thermometers.

The size of a small writing pad it has a display like an electronic watch, and takes temperatures by a miniature sensor which is connected to it by a wire. The sensor thermometer can therefore take the temperatures of several patients at a time.

The glass instrument is fragile and contains quicksilver which could be a hazard should the thermometer break. The sensors of the new instrument are much sturdier, and the figures on the face of the display are clearly visible even in the dark.

SOIL SPECIALISTS' FORUM

An international course for Asian, African and Latin American agronomists and farmers in agro-ecology sponsored by the UN Environmental Programme has ended in Yerevan.

Specialists read papers on the chemical improvement of saline lands and their subsequent reclamation for agricultural purposes. Those taking part in the

course were acquainted with some of the achievements of Armenian agronomists and farmers in growing grain and various varieties of bean crops, as well as fodder, on these lands. Methods for the chemical reclamation of soil, devised by the Armenian Soil and Agrochemistry Research Institute, are now in use in many countries.

MOSCOW PIGEON-FANCIERS

The Moscow pigeon-fanciers' club is twenty years old.

It is difficult to say, says club chairman V. Romanov, when people first noticed the pigeon's remarkable housing instinct. It is known, however, that ancient Greeks used these birds to convey information on victories and defeats in the Olympic Games.

Homing pigeons are now bred purely for sporting purposes. The birds can fly at speeds of up to 60 to 100 kilometres per hour and cover distances of up to 1,500 or 2,000 kilometres. The record flight belongs to a pigeon who flew in 1935 from Vietnam

to France—a distance of 11,265 kilometres—in eight days.

Domesticated pigeons first appeared in Russia in the 16th century. Pigeons were used in Moscow, Tula, Orel, Rostov, and Rzhnev. And it was in these towns that the basic Russian breeds originated—the black tumblers, the mazurs, the krushchies and the Orel whites.

A European pigeon exhibition is to be held in Budapest from November 5-7. It will not be the first time that Muscovites have taken part in such competitions—indeed in the past, two Moscow birds have been prizewinners. 200 pigeons are now being selected for the exhibition.



There is a large group of foreign students being educated in the M. Aizbekov Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Chemistry. They are to become engineers in the extraction and processing of oil and gas, operation of oil wells, and in the solomolpne of oil and gas extraction, to name but a few fields. Today, Azerbaijan gives higher education to specialists from 78 countries.

In the photo: students from Syria, Palestine, Laos, Cuba and Nigeria at their practicals in one of the oil refineries in Baku. In the middle is the chief of their practice, engineer Davud Mahomedov, head of a new automatic installation of catalytic reforming. Photo TASS.

VIEWPOINT

AN INVITATION TO TRAVEL



Sergei NIKITIN, Chief of the Main Board for Foreign Tourism attached to the USSR Council of Ministers

The World Tourists Day will be celebrated on September 27 for the third time. Its motto is "Worthy guests—hospitable hosts".

Let us discuss the Soviet Union in terms of its tourist trade. Over five million foreign tourists visit our country each year. Tourist exchanges are expanding at a fast pace with Finland, France, West Germany, Italy and with the Scandinavian countries. Intourist, the main Soviet organization in charge of foreign travel, now maintains contacts with nearly 700 firms from more than 100 countries. Many of these contacts are based on long-term agreements. Five-year agreements have been signed, for instance, with the firms of Leningrad and with the Finnish Travel Bureau; with French Transocean and the France USSR Association; with the firm of DFR (West Germany) and others.

The interest of our foreign partners in long-term contacts is explained by the expansion of travel facilities and of routes for foreign tourists in the USSR. International itineraries at present encompass 150 cities of our country. This year, when the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR is being celebrated, we have suggested 25 jubilee itineraries which will acquaint our guests with the life of all fifteen Union republics and with the culture and national costumes of the different Soviet nationalities. Included in the tours will be city excursions, visits to museums, factories, collective farms, etc. Our visitors will also have the opportunity of going to the theatre and concerts, of becoming acquainted with national dishes and of indulging in wine-tasting.

Tourist groups with a specialized interest have become very popular of late. In addition to the usual sightseeing and cultural programmes, special meetings are arranged for such groups with their Soviet colleagues as well as visits to various institutions. Seminars and discussions are also held. Apart from Intourist, the Central Council for Tourism and the Trade Union Excursions also cater for such groups.

Among our guests from abroad there are many young tourists—schoolchildren and students. They are looked after by Spetsdet, the International Youth Travel Bureau, which arranges for them trips to Soviet cities, not together with youngsters of their own age at schools and universities, as well as evening parties and discotheques. International camps and cottages run by Spetsdet, at which young men and women can relax with their Soviet counterparts, are situated in the Baltic region, on the Black Sea, in the Transcaucasus and in other picturesque areas of our country.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

SHOULD POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS RESEARCH BE BANNED?

Why do scientists make discoveries which, as is later realized, not only bring benefit to mankind, but also pose a serious threat to the very existence of life on earth? Debating this topic in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, Lev Feoktistov, Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, writes that an answer can be given in general terms—scientific discoveries are made in order to increase our knowledge and abilities, in other words, in order that we may be able to apply the knowledge thus obtained.

Bans in science are meaningless—far science will continue to develop regardless of them, obeying its internal laws and logic of cognition whatever the character of its subsequent practical applications. Besides, scientific work which has resulted in the appearance of highly dangerous weapons, can also bring about delivery from such weapons.

We may think, in this connection, of the peculiar use of nuclear energy which still occupies but a modest place in the life of mankind.

All forecasts predict that the industrial reserves of such sources of energy as oil and gas will be exhausted in the next century or two. Thus atomic power along with the generation of electricity derived from coal, becomes of greater and greater significance as time progresses. It should not be forgotten, moreover, that atomic stations possess a number of advantages over coal-based generators, in terms of a purer environment.

It is obvious that atomic energy unbound by the genius of scientists has a dual role. On the one hand it presents, and, will obviously, continue to present for a long time to come, a threat to the very existence of

mankind; while on the other, in a relatively short space of time, it may become a highly important means for guaranteeing this existence.

THE CITY IN THE YEAR 2000

A General Scheme for Population Distribution in the Soviet Union to the year 2000 has been approved in the USSR.

It raises a number of questions dealing with the improvement of the urban environment and living conditions for the urban population as part of an ecological reorganization now embracing many branches of the national economy. Some of the most important directions of this work are discussed in SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA by Professor V. Belousov, director of the Central Research and Design Institute for Town-Building.

Those living in large cities, he writes, are well acquainted with transit fatigue when they have to spend several hours a day travelling on public transport, and also waste much time waiting for it. Ideally town-planners should so locate factories, shops, theatres, etc., that people are relieved, in so far as is possible, from the necessity of using transport.

A number of measures to decrease the harmful effect of noise are also planned and are being gradually introduced.

They include, for example, the planting of green belts and the building of earthbanks between thoroughfares and residential areas; as well as the construction of noise-proof houses along streets with heavy traffic, which will also act as noise-curtains behind which houses, kindergarten and schools can be built.

Two streets of the city in the year 2000 will be rebuilt and improved and strictly classified according to the speed allowed and types of transport. The central parts of the city will be freed from through traffic. A number

of enterprises and power supply facilities will go underground thus leaving plenty of open spaces for recreation and sports.

BRINGING UP CHILDREN TO BE INDEPENDENT

Self-assertion is one of the most valuable human qualities, writes PRAVDA in its section, the Family Corner. This always provides a stimulus in life which does not allow a person to slip halfway in his development. The more developed this feeling is, the more confident and successful will that person be in life.

In children, the desire for self-assertion appears very early. But what happens to them in the future? Most children grow up and, despite everyone's expectations, become less independent and more vulnerable to life's hardships. Faced with difficult situations, they are lost and afraid to act with resolve. They cannot find a way out of difficult situations. Why does this happen?

Fear of having to take independent decisions and the inability to cope with difficulties are complicated by inexperience, which comes as a result of the absence of any daily responsibilities in childhood.

In recent years, a great deal has been said about schoolchildren being "overlooked" with homework. Today, we see rather the reverse: taking place in the tents are trying to "unleash" their children even to the extent where they are no longer doing even what is necessary.

The paper stresses that when a growing person is taking shape, nothing in his life passes without consequences, particularly when they are denied a chance to assume responsibility in daily life and duties, which may be unpleasant sometimes but are equally necessary. What is needed is not to protect our children from misfortune or avoid conversations about difficulties in life, but to analyse them together with them.

THE WORD OF TRAMS

The 100-year-old history of the tram can be traced in a collection of photos, drawings, badges and postage stamps belonging to G. Shulik, who lives in Gromy, a town in Northern Caucasus. The thirty thousand items in Shulik's collection illustrate the development of urban rail transport from the first steam wagons to the modern high-speed tramcar. It is of interest that at the dawn of the tram age each European and American city making use of this form of transport had their own design for

tramcars. This is why artists, curators of museums and film people tend to go to Gromy to consult Shulik when their work involves the reproduction of old tramcars.

At the request of the Leningrad Tram Depot which this year is celebrating its 75th anniversary, Shulik brought his travelling exhibition to Leningrad, included among the exhibits were rare photographs of the streets of Petrograd with the city's first tramcars.

OF INTEREST

KIEV'S POSTAL MUSEUM

A Postal Museum has been opened at the recently restored old coaching-station in Kiev. Built at the beginning of the 19th century, the coaching-station was situated in the middle of Post Square, where the town's chief administrative offices were to be found as well as the market and the river wharf. The main road linking Kiev with

Moscow and Petersburg also passed through the square.

The coaching-station which burnt down and was rebuilt more than once during the course of its existence has now been scrupulously restored. The museum's collection of mail-coaches is particularly popular with visitors.

In the first hall is a display illustrating the history of the postal services. Here one can also see Russia's first stamps, in the reconstructed station-master's office hang a map of Russia's postal system in 1793. Models of coaches and old harnesses as well as other items of travelling gear attract great interest. There is also a permanent stamp exhibition on view.

